



Opportunity Fund FAQs

All girls are welcome to participate in Girl Scouts regardless of financial resources.

Q. What is the Opportunity Fund?

A. The Opportunity Fund provides need-based financial assistance to individual Girl Scout members. Funds help cover costs associated with basic supplies and Girl Scouts activities and events.

Q. Who qualifies for assistance?

A. New and existing registered members.

- Existing member's troop/group must have submitted annual troop finance report. Applicant's family must have cleared any outstanding balance owed to council.
- Activities and events for which funding is requested must contain Girl Scout Leadership Experience program values.
- Our council reserves the right to determine who qualifies based on need. The amount of funds granted will vary based upon need and available funds.
- Applications will be reviewed by committee.

Q. What do the funds cover?

A. Opportunity Fund provides need-based financial assistance to individual Girl Scout members. Funds help cover costs such as:

- First-year Girl Scout registration fees or start-up fee
- *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and girl Journey book
- Uniform pieces
- Activities and events that directly relate to or support the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Troop leaders should plan activities that are in line with the economic conditions of troop members. Opportunity Funds should not be used to cover costs a troop is unable to handle.

Q. How do I apply for Opportunity Fund assistance?

A. Leaders and parents/caregivers should review, complete and sign the *Opportunity Fund Application and Opportunity Fund Philosophy and Guidelines*. New members requesting assistance for first-year registration fees need to submit only one form, the *Opportunity Fund Application for New Member Registration*.

Q. Why am I not getting all the items requested?

A. Opportunity funds are meant to be supplementary and may not cover 100 percent of any request.

Q. What happens after the request is approved?

A. After a request is approved, email notification is sent to the parent and troop leader with details of the items approved. An approval letter is sent to the parent with instructions on how to pick up items at the Girl Scout store.

Q. Are reimbursements and refunds available?

A. No, reimbursement and refunds are not available.

Q. Who can pick up items from the store?

A. Parents, caregivers or troop leaders can pick up approved items; must bring the approval letter mailed to parents.

Q. How can I verify approved financial assistance?

A. The applicant's member profile in the Girl Scouts San Diego database will have a copy of the approval. For additional verification, contact Emily Chiri at (619) 610-0820.

Q. Is there expiration on approval?

A. Yes, expiration is 60 days from approval notification.

Q. Who do I contact for more assistance?

A. For additional assistance, contact Emily Chiri at (619) 610-0820.

Q. Are substitutions allowed?

A. Substitutions and value towards a purchase is only valid for core and Girl Scout Leadership Experience items:

- Core items: Sash, vest, tunic, membership pin, council ID, flag, troop numbers, insignia tab, WAGGGS pin
- Girl Scout Leadership Experience items: girl Journey book, *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*